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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Walton-Wiggins Farm

other names/site number Walton, Dr. Lycurgus B., House

2. Location

street & number 4020 Woodrow Wilson Road not for publication

city or town Springfield vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Robertson code 147 zip code 37172

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert I. Hays 7/1/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Comm.
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson R. Beall 8/6/97
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with columns for Contributing and Noncontributing resources, and rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, AGRICULTURE: storage, field, DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, AGRICULTURE: storage, field, DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK; CONCRETE BLOCK, walls BRICK; WEATHERBOARD, roof ASPHALT SHINGLES, other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1855-1945

Significant Dates

1855, 1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Walton-Wiggins Farm

Name of Property

Robertson Co., TN

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 5.2 acres

Orlinda 309SW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 523740 4041450
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan A. Besser and Dr. Carroll Van West

organization Center for Historic Preservation date October 24, 1996

street & number MTSU Box 80 telephone (615) 898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name John Bynum Wiggins, Jr.

street & number 3951 Baggett Rd. telephone (615) 384-4233

city or town Springfield state TN zip code 37172-6436

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co., TN

VII. Description

The Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co., is located off Highway 25 at 4020 Woodrow Wilson Road, Springfield, Tennessee. Constructed ca. 1855, by Dr. Lycurgus B. Walton, the principal dwelling of this farm is a two-story farmhouse. The farmhouse reflects the formal symmetry of the Greek Revival style prevalent in the antebellum period. The dwelling evolved from a nineteenth-century one-and-one-half story brick I-house with Greek Revival influences to a two-story brick house with a full-width one-story porch on the front facade and a frame ell. This widely accepted pattern of remodeling demonstrates the influence of the Colonial Revival style evident in the early part of the century. In addition to the principal dwelling the area to be nominated includes 5.2 acres of land containing the farmhouse and several contributing outbuildings built between ca. 1855 to ca. 1930.

The main facade (east) contains three bays one of which consists of a first floor entry centrally located. The single four-panel door is the focus of this handsome entry. It is flanked by sidelights and a four-paned transom. Pilasters located between the door and sidelights further define this entrance. Four limestone steps lead to the full width porch. Large one-over-one-sash windows are located on either side of the entry. These windows were installed during the 1915 renovation. A full width porch, ca. 1915, with six square Doric wood columns supporting a shed roof dominates this facade. Wooden Doric pilasters are located at either end of the facade. The second story contains three bays with a central entry flanked by one-over-one sash windows. A logical explanation for the entry would have been the existence of a balcony in the original dwelling. The second story windows would have been dormer windows in the ca. 1855 dwelling.

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The south elevation consists of two stories. The ca. 1855 portion of the first floor contains no windows while the second story is comprised of the original four-over-four paned windows. Each window is flanked by one operable shutter. Upon examining this elevation it is apparent where the original gable roof was located. This is evidenced by the slight separation in the brick courses creating a distinctive diagonal line where additional bricks were added in the ca. 1915 remodeling. An interior end chimney with a recessed hexagonal pattern on three sides is apparent. The south elevation of the ca. 1915 ell has larger one-over-one sash windows that were of the period. A single window is located in the west portion of the first story, while a double window is to the east. The second story contains the same pattern of fenestration as the first story.

The west (rear) elevation of the brick dwelling features elements of the original building. The first story contains a large six-over-six sash window (original) which is directly across from the front window on the east facade. The second story portion includes two windows, a small six-over-six window to the north and a large six-over-six sash window to the south. In examining this elevation it is evident that the original joists between the first and second floors extended beyond the brick wall creating a roof for a porch. Apparently, during the ca. 1915 remodeling, the porch was removed in order to construct the the frame ell.

The rear portion of the ca. 1915 structure of the west elevation shows two distinct periods of evolution of the homestead. Beneath the hipped roof of the frame ell, the fenestration is composed of a large one-over-one sash window to the north and a four panel door with operable transom to the south. The second story contains one large one-over-one sash window centered on the elevation. At the northwest corner of the dwelling is a

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solid frame wall, which corresponds to the two story porch that was enclosed in 1953.

The north elevation includes elements from the two stages of development. On the first story the small window to the west corresponds to the bathroom which was added in 1953 in a separate addition. The center portion of the elevation is the ca. 1915 two-story porch which was enclosed in 1953. The elevation is comprised of five one-over-one-sash windows, two windows to the west of an exterior door, three windows to the east of the exterior door. Limestone steps lead up to the entry. The second story contains two small one-over-one sash windows. The original brick dwelling is on the far east or northeast corner. The first story reveals a large six-over-six window with brick lintel and brick sill. The second story contains two small four-over-four sash windows with brick lintels and brick sills. Each of the windows is flanked by one operable shutter. Once again, the distinguishing break in the brick courses indicating the original gable roof is apparent. The distinctive recessed hexagonal pattern of the south interior chimney is repeated on the north interior chimney.

Originally built as a one-and-one-half story central hall I-house, ca. 1855, the dwelling follows a trend toward the symmetry which dominated architectural design in this period. The emphasis of symmetry in this plan in which the central hall running east to west is apparent. Originally, the plan consisted of a one room deep house. This type of structure would have allowed for cross ventilation necessary in the hot and humid summers of Middle Tennessee. The porch on the west elevation, which is no longer extant would have shielded the parlor and bedroom from the intense heat. The dwelling rests on a high point of the property which would have contributed to the cross draft created from the summer

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breezes. The choice of brick as the primary building material for the loading bearing walls and exterior walls was a common means of insulating the house from the summer heat. Traditionally, brick was the choice of the more affluent population in the south and in many instances, as in the case of the Walton-Wiggins dwelling, was fired in a kiln located on the property.

The first floor of the original dwelling contains a central hall flanked by a parlor and bedroom. The handsome central hall retains the original four-and-one-half-inch wide yellow poplar flooring with the U-shaped stairwell opening to a balcony. The delicate lathe-carved spindles of the staircase are painted white and are topped with a walnut banister. A pendant is located at the juncture where the stairs turn. The stair treads are original to the structure with each tread fashioned from a single plank of poplar.

Exterior doors are four panel doors with a four inch molding surrounding the doors. Interior doors are five panels arranged horizontally. The original dwelling has fourteen-inch thick walls. The baseboards throughout the ca. 1855 dwelling are fourteen inches high, made of a flat piece of wood with a strip bead mold along the top edge. Each of windows in the ca. 1855 dwelling have a flat molding with a classic entablature. Ceilings throughout the original dwelling are eleven feet.

The parlor is located to the south of the entry. The coal-burning fireplace is the focal point of the parlor. The classical mantle, ca. 1915, has a mirror inset with a surround of white tile. The floor in the parlor dates to 1915 and is two inch wide oak.

The front bedroom contains a coal-burning fireplace with a pale green tile surround. The mantle dates to the original ca. 1855 period of the dwelling.

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This bedroom functioned as a doctor's office ca. 1915 to ca. 1930. Cabinets, ca. 1915, which stored medical supplies are located to the left of the fireplace and are thirty-six inches high and eighteen inches deep. Cabinets, ca. 1915, to the right are nine feet in height and are also eighteen inches deep. The floor is two inch wide oak and dates to 1945.

The family room is located in the ell addition. This room has walnut window trim and door casings. The door leading to the porch is a four-paneled door of walnut. The focal point of this room is the classic fireplace mantle, also of walnut, and green tile surround. This mantle has a mirror inset. To the right of the fireplace is a built-in cabinet, glass doors at the top and solid paneled doors in the base. A double window, which faces south, brings in natural light to the room.

The baseboards in the ca. 1915 addition are seven and one-half inches high. Ceiling heights throughout the addition are nine feet.

The kitchen is located in the ell addition. Although it has all the modern conveniences, it still retains some of the character of the 1915 time period. The walls have a beadboard wainscot. The brick wall, which corresponds to the fireplace in the family room, reveals the location of a circular opening which would have served as the ventilation for a wood burning stove or a pot belly stove. An exterior door with operable transom and two windows, one on the south side and one on the west side, flood the room with daylight.

A pantry was converted into a bathroom in 1953 in the ell portion and retains the fixtures from that era.

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The two story ell porch was enclosed in 1953 and serves as a utility area. A second narrow stairwell is located in the utility area and leads to the enclosed porch on the second floor. The ca. 1915 exterior wall remains.

The second floor contains four bedrooms. Two bedrooms are located in in the original dwelling. The bedroom on the north side of the house contains a coal-burning fireplace. The mantelpiece is a very simple white wood mantle with a surround of blue tile, ca. 1855. The hardwood floor is original to the 1855 time period. A shallow closet is located to the right of the fireplace. This is not original to the dwelling, as it is not likely that a window would have been located in the closet. The south bedroom also has a simple white painted mantelpiece with blue tile surround, ca. 1855. A closet has been added in a similar manner as the other bedroom. Again, this closet blocks the original window. The floor is the original yellow poplar.

The bedrooms in the 1915 addition have simple walnut mantles. The floor consists of three-inch pine boards. The window and door trim is walnut to compliment the decor of the period. The ceilings in these bedrooms are nine feet.

To the west and northwest of the principal dwelling are several contributing buildings.

A one-story frame, double-pen tenant's quarters with weatherboard siding, a gable metal roof, and central brick and concrete chimney which was constructed ca. 1880. This dwelling rests on a limestone foundation and is contributing to the property. (C)

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A ca. 1920 chicken coop with vertical board siding, metal shed roof and concrete pier foundation. This building contributes to the property. (C)

A ca. 1930 frame garage with weatherboard siding, replacement metal double doors and a metal gable roof lies to the northwest of the principal dwelling and is contributing to the property. (C)

Also, to the northwest of the principal dwelling is a smokehouse, ca. 1855 with a gable metal roof, board and batten siding and a scalloped valance. This building is contributing to the property. (C)

The stock barn, which is ca. 1855, has a central runway, vertical board siding on the sides and weatherboard siding on the front and back. The gable roof of this large structure is also trimmed with a scalloped valance. (C)

Two equipment sheds, ca. 1950 and ca. 1970, located to the northeast of the principal dwelling, are frame construction with board and batten siding and metal shed roof. (NC, due to date.)

John Wiggins, Jr., is buried on the property just south of the principal dwelling. His final resting place is designated by a stately grave marker, ca. 1972 (NC, due to date)

The historic domestic production area is clearly defined by tree lines and wire fences, with the chicken coop, tenant house, and garage surrounding the house and within the yard of the principal dwelling. The stock barn and equipment sheds north of the fence line are part of the farm's traditional livestock area. The tobacco barn (outside boundary) is located farther away to the south, approximately 800 yards, near the tobacco fields, which are still in production. A gravel driveway which follows a

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line of maple trees planted in the 1870s defines the entrance to the farm. A spring is located to the north of the principal dwelling. The integrity of the principal dwelling and surrounding buildings and features represent a contributing site (C) to the nomination.

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Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co., TN

VIII. Statement of Significance

The Walton-Wiggins Farm, located in Robertson County, Tennessee, was built on property purchased in 1854 by Dr. Lycurgus B. Walton. The Walton-Wiggins Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local agricultural significance and Criterion C due to its significance as an excellent example of a 19th century I-house updated with Colonial Revival detailing in the early 20th century. The Walton-Wiggins Farm is eligible for designation as a Tennessee Century Farm and meets the registration requirements for the Historic Family Farms in Middle Tennessee Multiple Property nomination.

Dr. Lycurgus B. (L. B.) Walton purchased the property, a tract of 436 acres, from the heirs of Volentine Simmons in 1854. The appeal of the property to Dr. Walton was a spring which originates from the Beaver Dam Creek and runs north on the property providing necessary water for his family and livestock. Due to the fact that Mr. Simmons had ten heirs, it was determined that his slaves, of which there were only two (Sam and Marcus), would be included in the sale of property. With the purchase of the property, Dr. Walton became a member of the slave-owning class. Over a period of several years, beginning ca. 1855, the permanent residence composed of a basic I-house with porches on the front and rear was constructed.

The original portion of the principal dwelling was a one and one-half story I-house of Greek Revival influences and constructed of solid brick walls with a brick foundation. A kiln was located on the property in order to facilitate the molding and firing of the brick. The original facade consisted of a full width porch on the main (east) facade. Evidence of a full width porch is seen on the west elevation. This is based on the support

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system which is still visible. The original classic Greek Revival influences are acknowledged in the 1915 renovation by the addition of a one story porch with Doric columns. During the 1915 renovation, the existing one-and-one-half story house was modified with the addition of brick to create a two story structure. At the same time, a rear frame addition modified the plan to an L-shaped plan. A hipped roof of asphalt shingles was added to the entire structure during this renovation. A two-story porch on the north elevation was part of this renovation. The porch was enclosed in 1953 with wood siding. Consequently, this structure has evolved from its original Greek Revival influences to its current Colonial Revival style. Upon examining the brick exterior, it is apparent that the original I-house contained a gable roof with dormers. The existence of an exterior entry on the second floor would indicate that a small balcony existed on the ca. 1855 dwelling.

To determine the origins of the ca. 1855 principal dwelling, one must turn to the roots of the Waltons, themselves. According to The History of Tennessee and Tennesseans, the Waltons came from Virginia. Henry Glassie, architectural historian who researched the patterns of eighteenth century houses of the Tidewater Virginia area in Folk Housing in Middle Virginia, asserts that the dominant structure type of this area was the I-house with a central parlor. As the Waltons migrated from Virginia, it would seem that the cultural heritage of Virginia was transplanted to Middle Tennessee and emerged with the building of this structure. The development of the simple I-house style is demonstrated in the addition of a gallery on both main and rear entries. Toward the end of the eighteenth century, the full-width, shed-roofed porch became a popular variation of this style. The evolution of the porch or veranda can be linked to the shotgun houses of Louisiana. A direct connection to this tradition can be traced to the Mississippi/Louisiana roots of the Bartletts, ancestors from

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Dr. Lycurgus B. Walton's maternal side. Consequently, the original dwelling was a combination of influences from the very symmetrical I-house of the Virginia Tidewater country to the porches of the shot-gun houses and rural raised cottages of Louisiana.

During Dr. L. B. Walton's tenure on the farm, he oversaw the construction of various contributing buildings. Tenants' quarters and a doctor's office for Walton's practice were constructed in close proximity to the residence. Rural practitioners often constructed quarters for their medical practice away from the residence. Unfortunately, the doctor's office is no longer extant. The son of Dr. Martin Walton, he upheld a long family tradition of medical practitioners when he graduated from the medical school in Louisville in 1848. Not only was Walton a highly respected physician in Robertson County, but he briefly served as president of the Cross Plains bank. In 1912, Walton deeded the property to his son, Dr. Martin Atkinson (M. A.) Walton, who was a graduate of Vanderbilt School of Medicine and had assisted in his father's medical practice. Walton continued to live in the principal dwelling with his son and family until his death in 1915.

In 1912 when the farm passed into the control of M. A. Walton, it became apparent that the existing farmhouse was inadequate for the Walton's large family of six children; however, it was several years before the property was transformed into a model progressive farm operation. Dr. Martin Atkinson Walton and his wife, Elizabeth Henry Woodard Walton, remodeled the house in 1915 into its present configuration in keeping with the agricultural reform idea that "Better Homes Make Better Farms."¹ They added a frame addition, which contained a modern kitchen and additional bedrooms. He also placed a Colonial Revival styled portico on the facade, giving the dwelling a decidedly up-dated appearance.

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The decision to update the principal dwelling reflects the influence of the county extension agents on the farm wife, in this case Mrs. Elizabeth (Bess) Walton, who by her position in the community would persuade Dr. Walton to modernize the house to reflect the current trends in the "Better Homes Make Better Farms Movement."² "As arbiter of the domestic sphere," according to Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle in Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community: Reformers, schools, and homes in Tennessee, 1914-1929, "country women determined the quality of rural life by the standard of living in their homes."³ It was to the "country women" that Middle Tennessee home extension agents channeled the reform efforts of the "Better Homes Make Better Farms" movement. These agents encouraged farmer's wives to participate in home demonstration programs. Such conveniences which "ranged from an egg beater to a complete indoor water system" would improve the standard of living of the farm family.⁴ The theory behind the better homes movement was to improve the quality of the farming lifestyle with the hope that children would continue the agricultural heritage. According to Sally McMurry in Families & Farmhouses in 19th-Century America, children were given more privacy as additional bedrooms were added to existing homes.⁵ Wives were encouraged to raise poultry and grow fruit trees. These products would become marketable farm income—the income which would finance conveniences such as water systems and appliances. The influences of the county agents of this era resulted in farmhouses more attuned to the prevailing design principles in selection of colors and lighting. The modernized kitchen was characterized by an all-white color scheme, while the Colonial Revival movement with tints of brown, blue and off-white dominating in rooms such as the bedrooms and the "living room." Lillian

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Keller in her bulletin, The Living Room That Is Livable touted the living room which was more conducive to the rural lifestyle than a formal parlor. Publications such as Southern Ruralist glorified "south values for the New South's economic success."⁶ This movement translated architecturally into the the columns of the nineteenth century plantations which were incorporated into the twentieth-century Colonial Revival vernacular.

Certainly, a gentleman farmer such as Walton would lead the community in this progressive movement and incorporated the latest architectural style and social reform ideals into his renovation. This dwelling is characteristic of nineteenth century vernacular designs which were updated as the family grew and the owners became more affluent. The evolution of this structure to an early twentieth century Colonial Revival reflects the styles of the period. The house began as a one and one-half story I-house structure with a side gable roof. Porches were located on the east and west sides of the house. Some of the original windows were replaced with one over one sash windows of the period. During the 1915 renovation, the original bedroom on the north side was converted into a doctor's office. In this room were added cabinetry that would have stored medicine and surgical instruments.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Walton enjoyed the more comfortable living quarters in the modernized dwelling for a short time as she died in early 1917. Walton continued as a gentleman farmer, with the help of tenant farmers who lived in the houses on the property. He continued to practice medicine in the reconfigured bedroom of the principal dwelling. Commonly, gentleman farmers also entered other endeavors. In Walton's case, he raised fruit trees and kept bees. After the death of Mrs. Walton, Walton with the aid of the tenant wives raised the couple's six children. Each child, in turn, married or left the area, except for Frances, who

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remained on the farm. His daughter, Eva Walton Wiggins, had married. She and her husband, John Bynum Wiggins, had one son, John Bynum Wiggins, Jr. Tragically, the marriage was short-lived as John Bynum Wiggins died of pneumonia in 1919, which was contracted during the influenza epidemic of that time period. With his death, Eva Wiggins, who was well educated, went to work as a music teacher in Cleveland, Tennessee. During the summers her son, Bynum, would return to the farm to help with the tobacco crop. Eva Wiggins moved to Greenville, Mississippi, in the 1920's where she started the local high school band. Mrs. Wiggins and her son remained in Greenville until 1930 when Dr. M. A. Walton died. Upon Walton's death the property passed equally to his six children. At that time Dan Walton, son of M. A. Walton, deeded his interest to W. H. Simmons. With the death of Walton, Eva Wiggins, began her quest to save the capital necessary to buy the remaining shares of the land. In 1934, Eva Walton Wiggins became the sole owner of the farm.

Frances (Fannie) Walton, daughter of Dr. M. A. and Bess Walton, had assumed the household duties since the death of her mother in 1917. She ran the chicken house, which was constructed ca. 1920. In a letter to his mother, Eva Wiggins, dated March 12, 1926, John Bynum Wiggins, Jr., details the role his aunt was to play in the progressive farm movement. "Fannie and I set a hen today. Fannie and I are going to make some money raising chickens, turkeys, and pheasants."⁷ Women were given an important role in the production of poultry in the early twentieth century, as a way farm women could earn "hen money" to buy more consumer goods. In the Walton's case, this money purchased the necessities which were not produced on the farm. Upon her return to the farm, Eva Wiggins with her sister, Fannie, continued to raise chickens. During the depression

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years, Eva also raised Duroc pigs and turkeys to provide additional income. At the age of seventeen, John Bynum Wiggins, assumed the role as a full-fledged farmer.

In 1937, Eva Walton Wiggins sold the land to her son, John Bynum Wiggins, Jr. During 1941-1942, Wiggins was working in Costa Rica on the Pan American route to raise money for necessary farm equipment. His attachment to the land is evident in a letter to his mother dated 1942, "I would to see you and just walk over the farm.. I believe I could almost kiss the ground."⁸ Wiggins brought new farming technology to the area moving away from the trend of mule-drawn plows to mechanized equipment, such as rubber-tired tractors. In 1943, John Bynum Wiggins married Lydia Bernice Randolph Wiggins. The Wiggins raised a family of five children on this ancestral farm. In order to provide for a bathroom and additional storage for his burgeoning family, the dwelling was altered in 1953 to enclose the porch in the ell addition. The family continued to prosper on the land until Bynum's untimely death in 1972. It was his last request that he be buried on the land to which he gave so much of himself. Bernice Wiggins, inherited the acreage east of Woodrow Wilson Road upon the death of her beloved husband, John Bynum Wiggins, Jr.

The property containing the principal dwelling was deeded to John Bynum Wiggins, III, by his grandmother in 1986. Wiggins continues to farm the land raising hay for the livestock cattle, soybeans, tobacco, corn and wheat. His mother continues to live in the historic dwelling which provides welcome accommodations for the large family at frequent reunions. Under the care of John Bynum Wiggins, III, the farm continues to flourish as an income-producing farm in the late twentieth century. Although, the crops produced on the farm have changed over the last one hundred and forty years, the family's commitment to the land is still evident. The land and

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Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co., TN

the dwelling have accommodated five generations of the Waltons-Wiggins family through many hardships such as the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 and the Great Depression. Regardless of the alterations of the principal dwelling, the farmhouse retains its early twentieth century character. The combined factors of the line of maple trees which were planted in the 1870s creating a planned allee, the property's setting and the spatial relationship of the outbuildings attest to the property's retention of its rural character.

The farm is significant for its embodiment of the local agricultural trends and also as it contains a prime example of a nineteenth century I-house converted to a Colonial Revival structure and early-twentieth century outbuildings the sum of which reflect the influences of the "Better Homes Make Better Farms" movement that exemplified the progressive farm era in Middle Tennessee.

Endnotes

¹Mary Sara Hoffschwelle, Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community: Reformers, schools, and homes in Tennessee, 1914-1929. Diss. (Vanderbilt University, Ann Arbor UMI, 1993) 166.

²Hoffschwelle, 166.

³Hoffschwelle, 176.

⁴Hoffschwelle, 176.

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⁵Sally McMurry,. Families & Farmhouses in 19th Century America.
(Oxford University Press, New York, 1988) 209.

⁶Hoffschwelle, 239.

⁷John Bynum Wiggins, Jr., Letter to Eva Walton Wiggins, March 12,
1926. Copy in family collection.

⁸John Bynum Wiggins, Jr., Letter to Eva Walton Wiggins, 1942. Copy
in family collection.

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Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co., TN

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Wiggins, John Bynum, Jr. Letter to Eva Walton Wiggins, March 12, 1946.
Copy in family collection.

Wiggins, John Bynum, Jr. Letter to Eva Walton Wiggins, 1942.
Copy in family collection.

Wiggins, Lydia Bernice Randolph, Personal Interview, April 5, 1996.

Wiggins, Lydia Bernice Randolph, Telephone Interview, September 21,
1996.

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Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co., TN

X. Boundary Description

The Tax Map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400". This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission used this scale map for nominations and has found the the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepared maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

The boundary for the nominated property includes 2.1 hectares (5.2 acres) and is bounded on the north by a fence line 91 meters (300') from the dwelling, on the west by a fenceline 30 meters (100') from the dwelling, on the south by a fenceline 30 meters (100') from the dwelling, and on the east by the ROW of Woodrow Wilson Road which is 121 meters (400') from the dwelling.

Within this boundary is the dwelling and outbuildings associated with the evolution of the property from ca. 1855 to the 1930s.

Boundary justification

These boundaries have been determined by the keeper.

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Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co., TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Walton-Wiggins Farm
Robertson Co., TN

By: Carroll Van West
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Date: July 15, 1996
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243

Farmhouse, east facade, facing west
1 of 31

Farmhouse, east facade, facing northwest
2 of 31

Farmhouse, south elevation, facing north
3 of 31

Farmhouse, west elevation, facing northeast
4 of 31

Farmhouse, west elevation, facing east
5 of 31

Farmhouse, northwest elevation, facing southeast
6 of 31

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Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co. TN

Enclosed Porch, first floor, facing west
17 of 31

Entry/Stairway, second floor, facing east
18 of 31

Landing, second floor, facing north
19 of 31

Bedroom, second floor, facing south
20 of 31

Bedroom, second floor, facing north
21 of 31

Bedroom, ell addition, second floor, facing south
22 of 31

Enclosed Porch, second floor, facing west
23 of 31

Garage, facing southwest
24 of 31

Equipment Sheds, facing north
25 of 31

Stock Barn, facing north
26 of 31

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Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co., TN

Farmhouse, north elevation, facing southwest
7 of 31

Central Hall & Stairway, first floor, facing west
8 of 31

Parlor, first floor, facing south
9 of 31

Bedroom/Physician's Office, first floor, facing north
10 of 31

Bedroom/Physician's Office, first floor, facing northwest
11 of 31

Family Room, first floor, facing east
12 of 31

Family Room, first floor, facing northwest
13 of 31

Doorway, family room, facing east
14 of 31

Kitchen, first floor, facing southwest
15 of 31

Enclosed Porch, first floor, facing east
16 of 31

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Walton-Wiggins Farm, Robertson Co., TN

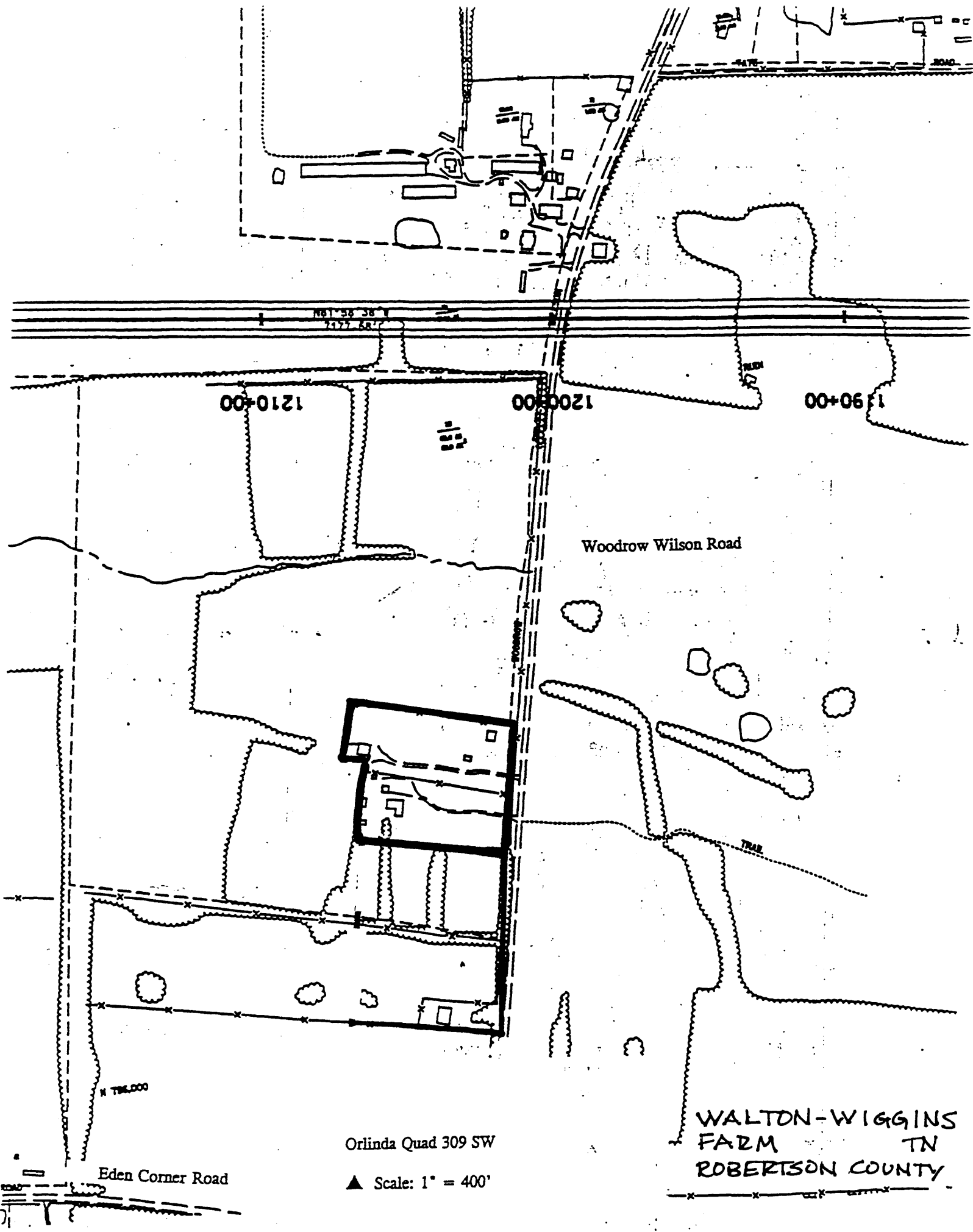
Stock Barn, facing northwest
27 of 31

Smokehouse, facing west
28 of 31

Smokehouse & Tenant House, facing southwest
29 of 31

Tenant House, facing west
30 of 31

Chicken Coop, facing southwest
31 of 31



1210-00

1200-00

1190-00

1180-00

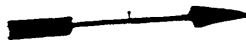
Orlinda Quad 309 SW

▲ Scale: 1" = 400'

Woodrow Wilson Road

Eden Corner Road

WALTON-WIGGINS
FARM TN
ROBERTSON COUNTY



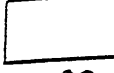
FENCE LINE

CHICKEN COOP



c. 1920

TENANT HOUSE



c. 1880

SMOKE HOUSE



c. 1855



c. 1855

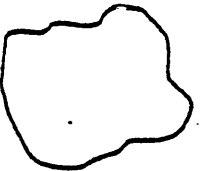
PROPANE TANKS



GARAGE



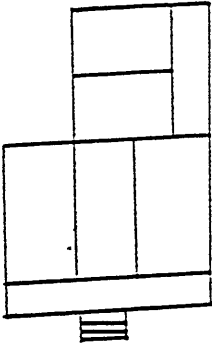
c. 1930



SPRING SITE



GRAVE
JOHN BYNUM
WIGGINS
1972



CATTLE LOT



c. 1950

SHEDS



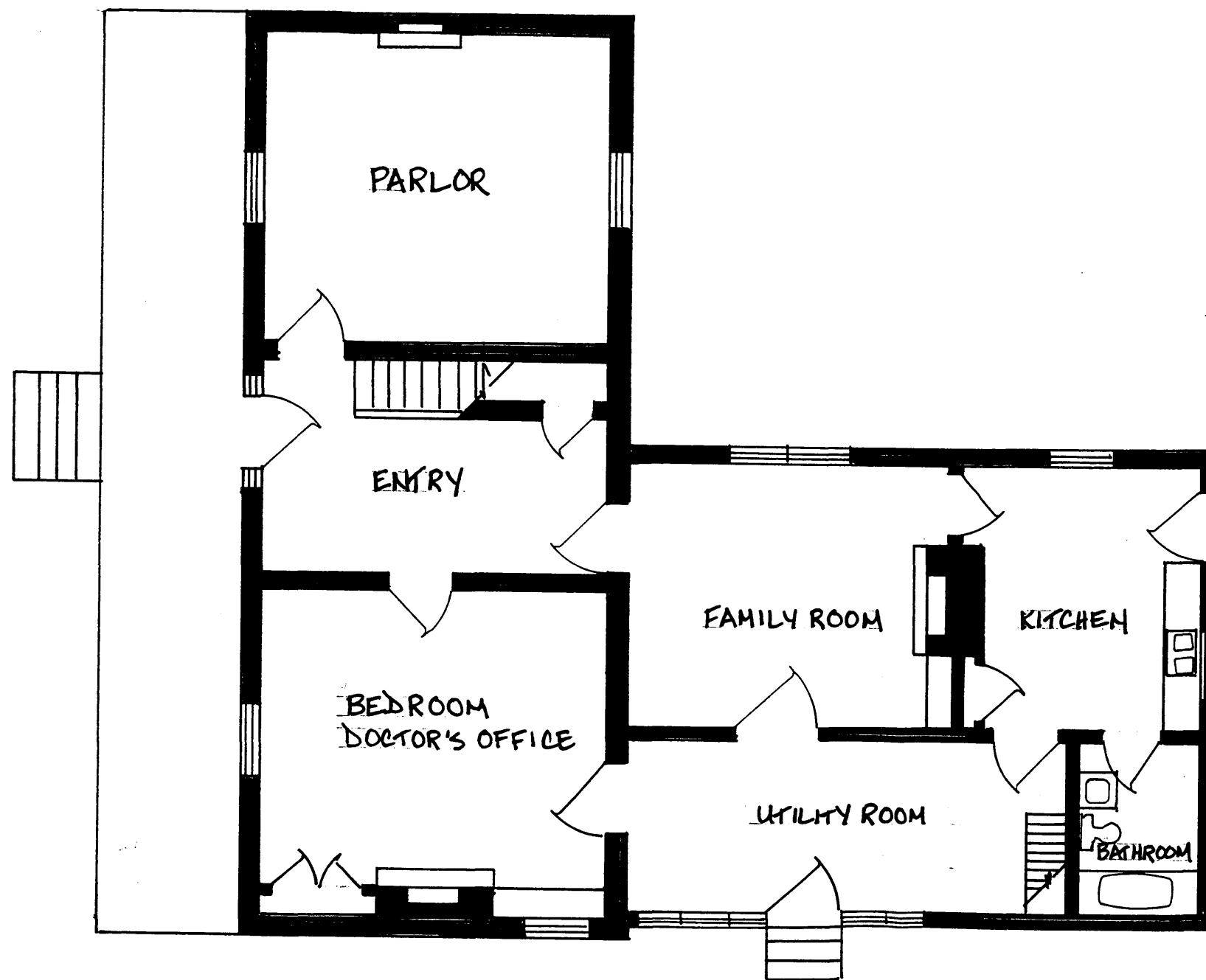
c. 1970

FENCE LINE

WOODROW WILSON ROAD

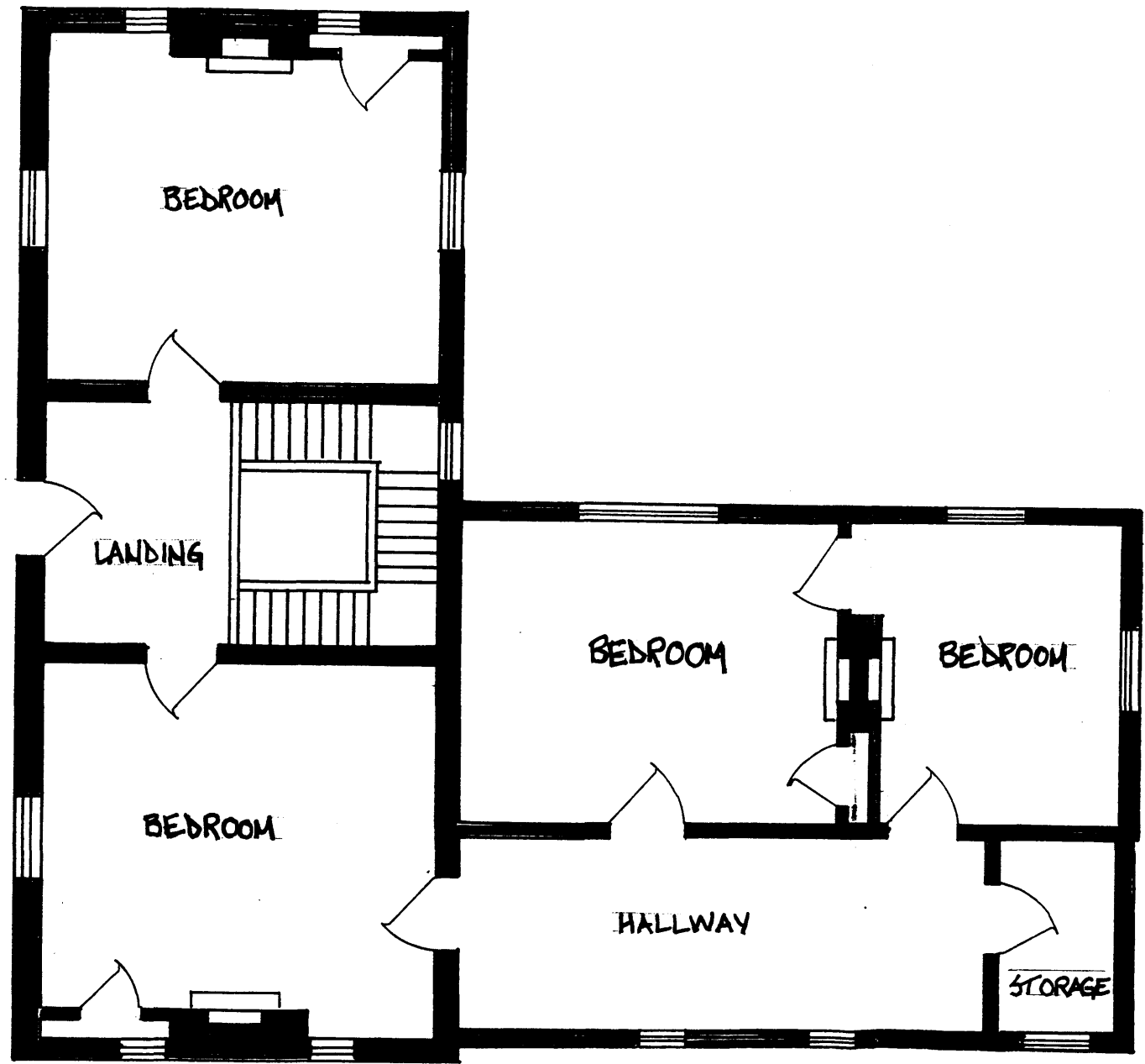
SITE PLAN
(NOT TO SCALE)

WALTON - WIGGINS
FARM - ROBERTSON CO.
TN



WALTON-WIGGINS FARM

SCALE: $\frac{1}{8} = 1'-0''$	APPROVED BY:	DRAWN BY:
DATE:		REVISED:
FIRST FLOOR		
		DRAWING NUMBER



WALTON-WIGGINS FARM		
SCALE: $\frac{1}{8} = 1'-0"$	APPROVED BY:	DRAWN BY:
DATE:		REVISED:
SECOND FLOOR		
		DRAWING NUMBER: